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Message Text

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65
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W
---------- 005565
R 021751Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5301
INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 2134

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, MO, SP, SS
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S AUDIENCE WITH KING HASSAN: SPANISH SAHARA:
FURTHER COMMENT

REF: (A) RABAT 2133 (B) MADRID 2970

1. MADRID'S 2970 WAS RECEIVED MAY 1, FOLLOWING CLOSELY AFTER MY AUDIENCE WITH KING. AS REPORTED REF A, I COUNSELED CAUTION AND EXPRESSED STRONG HOPE TO KING FOR PEACEFUL NEGOTIATIONS.

2. EVEN IF REF B HAD BEEN RECEIVED EARLIER, I SHOULD HAVE HAD RESERVATIONS REGARDING EMBASSY MADRID'S SUGGESTION THAT WE REMIND KING ONCE AGAIN OF HIS PLEDGE RE NON-USE OF U.S. MILITARY EQUIPMENT AGAINST SPAIN. FACT OF MATTER IS THAT ACCORDING TO ALL OUR INFORMATION SOVIET BLOC AND FRENCH WEAPONRY PRESENTLY DEPLOYED TO SOUTHERN MOROCCO, THUS UNDER-SCORING BY ACTION THAT KING REMAINS VERY MUCH AWARE OF PLEDGE. ALSO WORTH NOTING THAT I DISCUSSED KING'S PLEDGE WITH FONMIN LARAKI SUBSEQUENT TO EMERGENCE OF SAHARA PROBLEM, I.E. ON SEPTEMBER 11, 1974 (RABAT 4409), AND LARAKI VIGOROUSLY REAFFIRMED PLEDGE. I BELIEVE THIS IS THE KIND OF POINT THAT WE MUST REITERATE WITH TOP LEVEL OF GOM ONLY AT RATHER CAREFULLY CALCULATED INTERVALS, IF WE ARE TO AVOID GIVING KING IMPRESSION
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THAT UPPERMOST PURPOSE WE HAVE IN SUPPLYING HIM MILITARY

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EQUIPMENT IS TO CREATE CONSTRAINTS UPON HIS FREEDOM OF
ACTION IN A TERRITORIAL DISPUTE TO WHICH HE ATTACHES
VERY HIGH PRIORITY. WERE KING TO COME TO SUCH A CONCLU-
SION, RESULTS WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE
IN TERMS OF USG REGIONALAS WELL AS BODLATERAL INTERESTS
HERE. I WOULD PREFER, THEREFORE, NOT TO RAISE SUBJECT
AGAIN WITH KING UNTIL AND UNLESS THERE IS CLEAR AND EVIDENT NEED,
EG., RECEIPT OF EVIDENCE THAT GOM MAY ACTUALLY BE
CONTEMPLATING USE OF OUR EQUIPMENT THAT WOULD CONTRA-
VENE HIS PLEDGE.

3. IN THIS CONNECTION I TRUST IT IS CLEAR THAT SPANISH
CONTENTION REPORTED LAST SENTENCE OF PARA 3, REF B, IS
TOTALLY FALSE AS FAR AS MISSION RECORDS AND AVAILABLE MEMORIES
CAN DETERMINE.

4. REGARDING BROADER PICTURE: WE FULLY RECOGNIZE
PRESENT TRUCULENCE OF GOM ON SAHARA AND LEGI-
TIMATE CONCERNS THIS AROUSES IN MADRID. BUT THERE IS,
OF COURSE, ANOTHER SIDE, AS ALWAYS IN THIS COMPLEX AN
ISSUE. WHAT GOM APPARENTLY MOST OBJECTS TO IS NOT GOS
POSITION IN NEGOTIATIONS BUT LACK OF NEGOTIATIONS. IT
WOULD BE EASIER FOR US TO COUNSEL KING TO TAKE FORTH-
COMING ATTITUDE TOWARD PEACEFUL NEGOTIATIONS IF MEAN-
INGFUL NEGOTIATIONS WERE ACTUALLY TAKING PLACE. IT IS
MUCH MORE DIFFICULT FOR ME TO COUNSEL INACTION IN THE
FACE OF WHAT, AS FAR AS WE KNOW, IS TOTAL SPANISH
IMMOBILITY. WE WILL NEVERTHELESS CONTINUE TO DO OUR
BEST TO KEEP THE POT FROM BUBBLING OVER AT THIS END.

5. OUR PERSPECTIVE HERE IS, HOWEVER, THAT CONTINUATION
OF PRESENT DIALOGUE OF THE DEAF BETWEEN RABAT AND
MADRID IS LIKELY TO PRODUCE INCIDENTS, PARTICULARLY IF
SITUATION DOES NOT ADVANCE AFTER ICJ PRESENTS ITS
ADVISORY OPINION. OUR COUNSELS OF CAUTION AND RESTRAINT
ARE UNLIKELY IN THEMSELVES TO ALTER THIS FORECAST
APPRECIABLY. REMINDING KING OF HIS PLEDGE NOT TO USE
U.S. ARMS AGAINST OUR FRIENDS LIKELY TO BE SIMILARLY
INEFFECTIVE, PARTICULARLY SINCE HE HAS FRENCH AND SOVIET
ARMS IN PLACE AND OURS WILL NOT YET BE READY FOR HIM TO
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USE ANYWAY. DEPARTMENT MIGHT THEREFORE WISH TO UNDER-
TAKE, IF INDEED IT HAS NOT ALREADY DONE SO, SOME CONTIN-
GENCY PLANNING. I PLAN TO EXPAND ON THIS IN A LATER
MESSAGE.
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